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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

COR-1107

COPY NO.

878

MEMORANDUM FOR : Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Satellite Reconnaissance Activities

1. This memorandum is for information.
2. In accordance with the request of the DDI, the following is the present launch schedule for satellite reconnaissance activities for which the Agency and the United States Air Force are responsible.

<u>Launch Date</u>	<u>Payload *</u>
30 August 1961	C Triple Prime
8 September 1961	C Triple Prime
15 September 1961	C Triple Prime
28 September 1961	A
10 October 1961	C Triple Prime
20 October 1961	A
Early November 1961	C Prime
Late November 1961	C Prime
15 January 1962	M
March 1962	M
May 1962	M
June 1962	M
June 1962	M
July 1962	M
July 1962	M
August 1962	M
August 1962	M
September 1962	M

*** NOTES:**

C Triple Prime is a new camera configuration with an improved lens and film combination. It is hoped that this configuration, to be employed operationally for the first time on 30 August 1961, will be capable of resolving objects of a size of 8-12 feet.

C Prime is a camera which has been used in the past that can resolve an object of the size of 20-30 feet.

A - ARGUS mission is primarily for mapping/geodetic purposes and can resolve objects of the size of approximately 400 feet.

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W - MURAL is a new follow-on program which will provide C Triple Prime stereo coverage and resolve objects of the size of approximately 8-12 feet.

2. There are only eight THOR/AGENA vehicles available to the CORONA and ARGON programs for the remainder of 1961. Six are scheduled for CORONA and two for ARGON launches, as indicated above. There are four CORONA Triple Prime and four CORONA Prime camera systems available in the CORONA program for the remainder of 1961. Since the schedule calls for six CORONA launches for the remainder of 1961, two CORONA Prime systems are available for operational employment as back-ups or in the event that COMOR/USIB should decide later to recommend to replace A configurations, in the schedule noted above, with CORONA Prime configurations. A recent COMOR position, however, vis-a-vis CORONA and ARGON concurred in the present schedule of launches indicated above. This position is contained in COMOR Minutes, COMOR-M-40, dated 8 August 1961.

3. In the event that COMOR/USIB desires to recommend to substitute ARGON with CORONA Prime configurations and to maintain launch dates noted above, a decision is required a minimum of 93 days in advance of a scheduled launch date in order to permit the Satellite Systems Division and contractors to shift and integrate the new payload and related systems into the pre-launch count-down systems check sequence. The main factors controlling the number and frequency of CORONA launches during the remainder of 1961 are the availability of the THOR/AGENAS as well as the extended count-down systems check. THORs and AGENAS, particularly the latter, are limited in supply and are being employed in the CORONA and ARGON programs as rapidly as they are made available for operational use.

4. As the DCI is aware, the above program is called overtly the DISCOVERIES Series (THOR is the first stage and AGENA is the second stage with classified CORONA C Prime, C Triple Prime, MURAL configurations or ARGON camera packages enclosed in the AGENA.) Knowledge of the MURAL program is limited to a very few CORONA/MURAL cleared persons at this time.

RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Deputy Director (Plans)

cc: SB/I

C/DB/DPD:JP/hhk
31 Aug 61

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SIGNATURE RECOMMENDED:
(Signed) Stanley W. Beerli

STANLEY W. BEERLI
Colonel USAF
Acting Chief, DPD

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